

Mr. KUCINICH. A New Year's deal for New Year's Day—or is it Groundhog Day? Because like the movie "Groundhog Day," this government in 2 months will arrive at another crisis of debt, of spending, and taxes.

Our debt-based economic system, with its exponential growth of debt due to compounded interest, consigns us to massive unemployment, threatens the social safety net, a deteriorated infrastructure, a psychology of poverty amidst plenty, austerity. Congress must regain its full power accorded under the Constitution, article I, section 8, to coin, to create money, to invest in our Nation interest-free, to put America back to work. Why go into debt borrowing money from China, Japan, South Korea, when we have the constitutional authority to protect our economic sovereignty and to ensure America's long-term fiscal health?

The endless cycle of increasing taxes and cutting spending will not work because the debt keeps ballooning with compounding interest. It is time for a new American monetary policy to climb out of poverty and debt. Reforms are outlined in the National Emergency Employment Defense Act, H.R. 2990. It's the NEED Act.

Let's regain control of America's destiny.

SPENDING ANONYMOUS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's New Year's Day 2013. What an excellent time for Congress to make at least one New Year's resolution.

Congress is addicted to spending money. Maybe Congress should join Spending Anonymous. Here is the 12-step plan:

One, Congress should admit it's addicted to spending someone else's money;

Two, make a list of the wasteful spending;

Three, pass a yearly budget and a constitutional balanced budget amendment;

Four, stop giving money to countries that hate us;

Five, have the resolve not to spend money we don't have;

Six, don't contribute to the addiction by taking more money away from Americans;

Seven, don't borrow any more money from China;

Eight, don't make excuses for our addiction;

Nine, don't blame others for the addiction;

Ten, run Congress like most people run their family budgets;

Eleven, remember, we are to do the will of the people;

Twelve, have a support group and meet regularly to confess our addiction.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should join Spending Anonymous.

And that's just the way it is.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. In the early 19th century, 4 million slaves resided in the South, public opinion in the North began to oppose it, States resisted by ceding from the Union, and a brutal civil war ensued.

In order to end slavery and the war, President Lincoln on September 22, 1862, issued a preliminary emancipation proclamation directing all rebelling States to free their slaves and return to the Union in 100 days.

Lincoln made it clear: should they fail to do so, he would use his authority as Commander in Chief to end slavery. States failed to act, and Lincoln signed the proclamation January 1, 1863.

More than 200,000 lives were lost in the war. Lincoln lost his own life with an assassin's bullet following reelection. This is American history that every individual must understand and appreciate.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we commemorate 150 years of freedom for African American citizens.

GET IT RIGHT AND DON'T ACT IN HASTE

(Mr. BROOKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate passed a fiscal cliff bill this morning without time for Senators to adequately consider it and, more importantly, without giving the American people time to understand it and share their insight with Congress.

Senator MITCH MCCONNELL observed, "This shouldn't be the model for how we do things around here," and then the Senate proceeded like a bull in a china closet anyway.

The Senate boasts it is America's deliberative body. Today, that claim rings hollow.

Mr. Speaker, the House must postpone this vote until Congress and the American people have time to study and evaluate this extraordinarily complex legislation and its impact on taxes, revenue, the economy, our debt, and a myriad of other issues. It is better to get it right than to act in haste.

Mr. Speaker, if we vote on the Senate fiscal cliff bill today, I will vote against it because this is not the way to do the people's business. I will not condone with my vote a process that denies the American people an opportunity to participate in their Republic on issues of this magnitude.

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A LOST OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORM

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. The agreement we are expected to vote on, perhaps as early as this afternoon, has many commendable and important items. Unfortunately, too many are short term; much is left out; and most important, we are losing an opportunity for reform.

We cannot continue to have, by far, the world's largest and most expensive military, the world's lowest taxes, the most expensive and inefficient health care system, and continue to allow our country's infrastructure to fall apart all while America grows and ages.

This agreement represents absolutely the least we could have done under these circumstances and tragically institutionalizes for the next Congress the madness of short-term frenzy around artificial deadlines that drives the American public crazy.

Not only can we do better; we must do better. This flawed, partial plan is not just a lost opportunity; it represents a real setback.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

(Mr. MANZULLO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, this is the last time I'll have the opportunity to address my colleagues as I wind up a 20-year career in the House of Representatives on January 3. I want to thank my constituents for giving me the honor and the opportunity to fulfill the dreams of a 10-year-old child who dreamed about becoming a Member of the House of Representatives.

Twenty years ago, almost to the date when I was first sworn in, our family visited the Emancipation Proclamation at Archives. It's open again today. He was from my State. He served our State. In the incredible speech that he gave at Gettysburg, he talked about people coming here to do the unfinished work. That's the job of all of us as Members of Congress is to do the unfinished work as Lincoln saw it—the unfinished work not only to bind the wounds of the Nation but to keep America together. That's the charge that we have continually is to keep America together.

God bless you and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMY NEEDS TO GROW

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, the people in this Chamber who do all the complaining about spending, the record